

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, 18, and 28-33 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-33 are pending in the present application.

The claims have been rejected under 35 USC 112. Appropriate amendments have been made to obviate these rejections. These amendments correct section 112 informalities and do not raise any new issues. Note that additional antecedent informalities have been discovered and corrected. For example, it was discovered that the term “pre-negotiated contract parameters” in step f of claim 1 did not find exact antecedence with the “negotiating master contract parameters” in step a. Accordingly, both steps a and f have been amended to provide proper antecedence, and comparable corrections have been made to independent claims 7 and 13. Also, dependent claims 28-30 were amended to clarify the antecedence for the term “data” and the word “supplier” was added to correct an antecedence problem.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

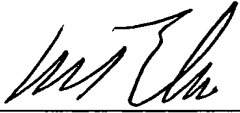
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to

Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 2/14/05

By 

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